(c) if not, whether Government propose to do it now for evolving a rational methodology?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has informed that some instances of manufacturers fixing/printing very high retail prices, offering huge profits (trade margins) to trade in respect of generic medicines which generally do not involve expenses towards sales promotion through medical profession have come to their notice.

(b) and (c) An examination done on test check basis by NPPA and information received from some State Drugs Controllers has shown that, mostly in case of generic non-scheduled (de-controlled) formulations the manufacturers had offered huge margins to the trade by printing high retail prices. Such activity, which is mostly prevalent in non-scheduled formulations does not contravene the provisions of DPCO-1995. However, Government has power to interfere and fix the prices of such formulations under Para 10 (b) of DPCO, if it is established that public interest is adversely affected. The matter was discussed with industry associations and they agreed to exercise self-discipline in the matter of trade margins and bonuses offered to dealers as per good marketing practices.

Hepatitis 'A' vaccine

1563. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference of opinion among the medical experts on the question of using Hepatitis 'A' vaccine to prevent liver diseases including jaundice;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any policy on the issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) As per information furnished by Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, jaundice is caused by major Hepatitis virus such as A, B, C and E infection. Hepatitis

'A' virus infection is benign as compared to Hepatitis B, C and E virus infection. The research studies conducted in India have shown that over 90% of children develop natural immunity to Hepatitis 'A' virus infection without taking a vaccine. This immunity develops early, continues life long and is stronger than vaccine induced immunity. Use of Hepatitis 'A' vaccine is useful in countries where the presence of protective antibody in blood has been found to be low. It is therefore, better that a child is tested for protective antibody against Hepatitis 'A' before given Hepatitis 'A' vaccine. At present Hepatitis 'A' vaccination is not included in the routine immunization programme of Government of India.

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

1564. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana recently;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the entire population in various States and UTs would be covered under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Considering the need for providing specialized treatment to needy and poor people in the under-served areas, Government of India has launched a Scheme by the name "Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana'. The Scheme envisages the following:—

(i) Setting up institutions on the pattern of AIIMS in certain under-served States. This Scheme has been inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister by laying the foundation stone for one of such Institutions at Bhubaneswar on 15.7.2003.

(ii) Upgrading exsisting institutions in certain remaining under-served States/regions to meet the demand for super speciality health services.